

§ 219.28 Research.

(a) Research needs for management of the National Forest System shall be identified during planning and periodically reviewed during evaluation of implemented plans. Particular attention should be given to research needs identified during the monitoring and evaluation described in § 219.12(k). These identified needs shall be included in formulating overall research programs and plans which involve private as well as public forest and rangelands.

(b) Research needed to support or improve management of the National Forest System shall be established and budgeted at the research station and national levels. Priorities for this portion of the Forest Service Research Program shall be based upon the information gathered at all planning levels of the National Forest System.

(c) An annual report shall be prepared at the national level with assistance from Regions and Stations which shall include, but not be limited to, a description of the status of major research programs which address National Forest System needs for Research, significant findings, and how this information is to be or has recently been applied.

§ 219.29 Transition period.

(a) Until a forest planning area of the National Forest System is managed under a forest plan developed pursuant to this subpart and approved by the Regional Forester, the land may continue to be managed under existing land use and resource plans. As soon as practicable, existing plans shall be amended or revised to incorporate standards and guidelines in this subpart. Pending approval of a forest plan, existing plans may be amended or revised to include management requirements not inconsistent with the provisions of the RPA and these regulations.

(b) Requirements of amendments to this subpart shall be incorporated in forest plans and regional guides through the ongoing planning process. Planning process steps already completed need not be repeated.

(1) If, prior to the effective date of an amendment to this subpart, a forest plan either has been approved in final form or released in draft form for pub-

lic review, the plan need not be modified to incorporate requirements of such amendment, until the next scheduled revision of the forest plan;

(2) If, prior to the effective date of an amendment to this subpart, a regional guide either has been approved in final form or released in draft form for public review, the guide need not be modified to incorporate the requirements of such amendment, until a significant amendment to the guide is made for reasons other than incorporating requirements of amendments to this subpart.

(c) A forest plan may become effective prior to the development and approval of its related regional guide, provided that the forest plan is reviewed upon regional guide approval, and if necessary, amended to comply with regional management direction. If such an amendment is significant, it shall be accomplished pursuant to the requirements for the development of a forest plan as set forth in this subpart.

(d) As a result of the eruption of Mount St. Helens, a land management plan for the Mount St. Helens area shall be prepared substantially in accordance with the following procedures:

(1) Notwithstanding any other provisions in this subpart, the area included in the Mount St. Helens land management plan will not be subject to planning activities for the first generation Gifford Pinchot National Forest Plan unless the Regional Forester for the Pacific Northwest Region determines that additional planning activities are desirable.

(2) Lands which were inventoried as roadless and designated for nonwilderness uses in the Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE II) shall be managed for uses other than wilderness. Except for a small part of the Mount Margaret roadless area (B 6071), the Mount St. Helens land management plan shall not consider wilderness designation for these lands.

(3) Lands which were inventoried as roadless and designated as further planning in the Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE II) shall be evaluated in the Mount St. Helens land management plan and shall be managed in accordance with that plan.